Irregularities in PF and ESI Account

4215. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether default on Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance account of jute mill workers of West Bengal by mill owners runs into several hundred crores for the last two decades;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government to regularise such accounts and penal action being contemplated against defaulting mill owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) Default in jute sector in West Bengal as on 31.03.2001 in respect of Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' State Insurance is Rs. 146.97 crore and 91.15 crore respectively.

(c) Necessary legal and penal action is taken against the defaulters under the provisions of the Employees Provident Funds and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952, the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.

Complaints against Mekaster Group

4216. DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints have been received against a number of companies under the "MEKASTER GROUP" for default not only in the matter of payment of salary to its employees but also irregularities in the matter of deposit of money in the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter in order to protect the interest of the humble employees as well as to prevent violation of statutory provisions; and

(c) if not, whether Government would investigate the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.